



Louisiana Housing Corporation

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Willie Spears and seconded by Board Member Dr. Daryl Burckel:

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing the Louisiana Housing Corporation ("Corporation") to release a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to select an IREC accredited training program for Quality Control Inspector Certifications for the statewide Weatherization Assistance Program ("WAP"); and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 3-G of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 (R.S. 40:600.86 through R.S. 40:600.111, inclusive), as amended, and by a delegation of authority letter signed by Governor Bobby Jindal, the Louisiana Housing Corporation ("LHC" or "Corporation") is granted the power to effectuate the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Weatherization Assistance Program ("WAP") for the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Weatherization Program Notice 14-4 requires the LHC to implement a training and certification plan to ensure there is a sufficient number of certified individuals available to perform quality assurance inspections for every weatherized unit reported to DOE as a "completed unit" beginning on July 1, 2015.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Housing Corporation (the "Board"), acting as the governing authority of said Corporation, that:

SECTION 1. The Request for Proposals for the Weatherization Assistance Program, Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) Accredited Training Program for Quality Control Inspector (QCI) Certification (attached as "Exhibit A") is hereby approved for release by the LHC.

SECTION 2. The Corporation staff and counsel are authorized and directed to prepare the forms, notices, documents, and agreements as may be necessary to seek and implement an IREC accredited training program for Quality Control Inspector certifications for the statewide Weatherization Assistance Program, the terms of which are to be consistent with the provisions of this resolution.

SECTION 3. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and/or Executive Director of the Corporation are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute any forms and/or documents required to be executed to implement the IREC accredited training program, the terms of which are to be consistent with the provisions of this resolution.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mayson H. Foster, Larry Ferdinand, Michael L. Airhart,
Dr. Daryl V. Burckel, John N. Kennedy, Matthew P.
Ritchie, Willie Spears, Guy T. Williams, Jr.

ABSTAIN: None.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Ellen M. Lee, Malcolm Young, Jr.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8th day of October, 2014.


Chairman


Secretary

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, do hereby certify that the foregoing two (2) pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution entitled, "A resolution authorizing the Louisiana Housing Corporation ("Corporation") to release a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to select an IREC accredited training Program for Quality Control Inspector Certifications for the statewide Weatherization Assistance Program ("WAP") and providing for other matters in connection therewith."

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature and the impress of the official seal of the Corporation on this, the 8th day of October, 2014.



Secretary

(SEAL)





REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
Accredited Training Program for
Quality Control Inspector (QCI) Certification**

DATE ISSUED: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2014

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS: MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014
4:00 P.M. CT**

I. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

A. Purpose and Background

The Louisiana Housing Corporation, (LHC) hereby issues this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from qualified entities to provide Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) accredited training for the Home Energy Professional (HEP) Quality Control Inspector (QCI) Certification.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was established under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act and amended by the National Energy Conservation Policy Act, the Energy Security Act, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1984, and the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990. The Program is funded at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The LHC serves as the Grantee for the Louisiana WAP, which sub-contracts with a network of local community action agencies and governmental entities to provide services in Louisiana's 64 parishes, based on availability of funding.

The mission of the (WAP) is to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditures, and improve their health and safety.

According to federal regulations every DOE WAP unit reported as a "completed unit" after Tuesday, June 30 2015, must be inspected by a Certified Quality Control Inspector (QCI) who will ensure that all work meets the minimum specifications outlined in the Standard Work Specifications (SWS).

B. RFP Coordinator

This RFP is available in electronic form at <http://www.lhc.la.gov>. The RFP is also available in printed form by submitting a written request to the RFP Coordinator.

Written requests and questions must be directed to the RFP Coordinator using the information listed below:

ATTN: Loretta Wallace, Deputy Administrator
Louisiana Housing Corporation
11637 Industriplex Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809
(225) 754-1483
Email: lwallace@lhc.la.gov

C. Procurement Process

The RFP process commences with the issuance of the RFP. The steps involved in the process and the anticipated completion dates are set forth in the schedule set forth below. The LHC has structured a procurement process that seeks to obtain the desired results described above, while establishing a competitive environment to assure that each Proposer is provided an equal opportunity to submit a proposal in response to this RFP. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section IV of this RFP, which will be applied in the same manner to each proposal received.

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee ("Review Committee") composed of representatives of the Louisiana Housing Corporation and others, as may be deemed appropriate by the Corporation. The Proposals will be reviewed to determine if the Proposer has met the minimum criteria described in this RFP. Based upon the totality of the information contained in the proposal, including information about the reputation and experience of each Proposer, the Review Committee will determine which Proposers are qualified (professionally, administratively, and financially).

D. Important Dates and Deadlines

RFP published and posted to LHC website	Friday, October 10, 2014
Deadline for submitting written inquiries	Friday, October 17, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. CT
Deadline for LHC to respond to written inquiries from Proposers	Wednesday, October 22, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. CT
Deadline for submitting proposals	Monday, October 27, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. CT
Formal announcement of selected Proposer	TBD
Contract Execution	TBD

NOTE: *The LHC reserves the right to revise this schedule. Any such revision will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFP.*

E. Proposer Inquiries

The Corporation will consider written inquiries from Proposers regarding RFP requirements or Scope of Services. Inquiries will only be considered if they are submitted in writing to the RFP Coordinator by the deadline for submission of written inquiries set forth in Section I(D), above. Inquiries shall clearly reference the section of the Proposal for which the

Proposer is inquiring or seeking clarification. Any and all questions directed to the RFP Coordinator will be deemed to require an official response.

The Corporation reserves the right to modify the RFP should a change be identified that is in the best interest of the Corporation. It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to inquire into and clarify any item of the RFP that is not understood.

F. Contact Prohibitions

It is the express policy of the Corporation that prospective respondents to this RFP refrain from initiating any direct or indirect contact or communication regarding the selection process with staff of the LHC or member(s) of the LHC's Board of Directors. Any violation of this policy will be considered as a basis for disqualification.

G. Changes to the RFP

In the event that the LHC determines, in its sole discretion, that it is necessary to revise any part of this RFP, an addendum, supplement, or amendment to this RFP will be posted at <http://www.lhc.la.gov>. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to check the website for any such addendums, supplements, or amendments made to the RFP.

H. Definitions

1. **BPI** – Building Performance Institute
2. **Contractor** – Any firm or individual who is awarded or has a contract with another firm, individual or governmental body.
3. **Corporation** – Louisiana Housing Corporation
4. **Discussions** -- For the purposes of this RFP, a formal structured means of conducting written or oral communications/presentations with responsible Proposers who submit proposals in response to this RFP.
5. **DOE** – The U.S. Department of Energy
6. **HEP** – Home Energy Professionals
7. **IREC** – Interstate Renewable Energy Council
8. **JTA** – Job Task Analyses
9. **LHC** – Louisiana Housing Corporation
10. **NREL** – National Renewable Energy Laboratory

11. **Proposal** – A response to a Request for Proposals
12. **Proposer** – A firm or individual who responds to a Request for Proposals.
13. **QCI** – Quality Control Inspector
14. **RFP** – Request for Proposals
15. **Shall, Must, Will** – Mandatory language denoting required action per Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1556(24); a requirement that must be met without alteration.
16. **Should, Can, May** – Non-mandatory language denoting desirable, advisable or permissible action.
17. **State** – The State of Louisiana.
18. **Subcontractor** – A firm or individual entering into a contract with the Contractor.
19. **SWS** – Standard Work Specifications
20. **WAP** – Weatherization Assistance Program

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II. Submission Requirements

A. Submission Deadline and Method of Delivery

Proposals must be delivered in hard copy (printed) to the RFP Coordinator designated in Section I(B), **by no later than 4:00 p.m. CT on Monday, October 27, 2014.** Proposers mailing their proposals should allow sufficient mail delivery time to ensure receipt of their proposal by the date/time specified above. **Fax or e-mail submissions are not acceptable and will not be considered.**

Proposals may be mailed through the U. S. Postal Service or delivered by hand or courier to:

Louisiana Housing Corporation
11637 Industriplex Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Re: RFP – IREC Training for QCI Certification

The outside of the envelope, box or package must be CLEARLY MARKED with the following information and format:

Proposal Name: RFP – IREC Training for QCI Certification
Proposal Submission Deadline: Monday, October 27, 2014 - 4:00 PM CT

Proposer is solely responsible for ensuring that its courier makes inside deliveries to the physical location. Proposer is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its proposal. Failure to meet the proposal submission deadline shall result in rejection of the proposal.

B. Number of Copies

Each Proposer shall submit one (1) signed original Proposal which should be clearly marked or differentiated from copies. The original will be retained for incorporation by reference into any contract that may result from this RFP. Three (3) additional copies of the Proposal should be provided for the evaluation team, as well as one (1) redacted copy, if applicable (see *Section II(I) - Proprietary Information* for details). Failure to provide the specified number of copies will be considered as a basis for disqualification.

C. Required Signatures

The Proposal must be signed by a company official or agent duly authorized to sign proposals or contracts on behalf of the organization, such as:

1. A current corporate officer, partnership member, or other individual specifically authorized to submit a proposal as reflected in the appropriate records on file with the Secretary of State;
2. An individual authorized to bind the company as reflected by a corporate resolution, certificate or affidavit; or
3. An individual identified in other documents conferring the appropriate authority which is acceptable to the LHC.

D. Corporate Requirements

Proposers must be registered entities under the laws of the State of Louisiana and certified to conduct business in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to La. R.S. 12:301-302, by the Louisiana Secretary of State, prior to entering into a contract with LHC.

E. Validity

All proposals shall be considered valid for acceptance until such time as an award is made unless the Proposer provides for a different time period within its proposal. However, the Corporation reserves the right to reject a proposal if the Proposer's acceptance period is unacceptable to the Corporation and the Proposer is unwilling to extend the validity of its proposal.

F. Content

Evaluation of proposals shall be based only on the material contained in this RFP, which may include official responses to questions, addenda, and other material provided by the Corporation pursuant to the RFP.

Mandatory RFP requirements shall become contractual obligations should a contract be awarded to the Proposer. Failure to include these requirements in a proposal shall result in rejection of the proposal.

G. Clarity

Each Proposer is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of its proposal. Proposals must demonstrate a clear understanding of the requirements of this RFP and present a clear description of proposed services and fee arrangements. While Proposals prepared simply and economically are preferred, as much detail as possible should be provided while also providing straightforward, concise descriptions of Proposer's abilities to meet the requirements of the RFP.

H. Proposal Material Ownership

All material submitted regarding and in response to this RFP becomes the property of the State of Louisiana. Selection or rejection of a proposal does not affect this right.

I. Proprietary Information

Only information that is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data may be deemed proprietary or confidential. Any material within a proposal identified as such must be clearly marked in the proposal and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, La. R.S. 44.1 *et seq.*, and applicable rules and regulations. Any proposal marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

Proposers must be prepared to defend the reasons the material should be held in confidence. If a competing Proposer or other party seeks review or copies of a Proposer's confidential data, the Corporation will notify the Proposer of the request. If the Proposer does not want the information disclosed, it must agree to indemnify and hold the Corporation harmless against all actions or court proceedings that may ensue (including attorney's fees) which seek to order the Corporation to disclose the information. If the Proposer refuses to indemnify and hold the Corporation harmless, the Corporation may disclose the information.

The Corporation reserves the right to make any proposal, including proprietary information contained therein, available to its personnel, the Office of the Governor or other State agencies or organizations, for the sole purpose of assisting the Corporation in its evaluation of the proposal. The Corporation shall require said individuals to protect the confidentiality of any specifically identified proprietary information or privileged business information obtained as a result of participation in these evaluations.

J. Changes to Proposals

If prior to the deadline for submitting proposal a Proposer needs to submit changes or addenda to its Proposal, such changes or addenda shall be submitted in writing to the Corporation, in a sealed envelope, clearly cross-referencing the relevant proposal section, and signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer. Changes and/or addenda to Proposals shall meet all requirements for Proposals.

K. Withdrawal of Proposal

A Proposer may withdraw a proposal that has been submitted at any time up to the date and time the proposal is due. To accomplish this, a written request to withdraw the proposal must be signed by the authorized representative of the Proposer and submitted to the RFP Coordinator.

L. Errors and Omissions in Proposals

The Corporation will not be liable for any errors in proposals. The Corporation reserves the right to make corrections or amendments due to errors identified in proposals by the State or the Proposer. The Corporation, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from the Proposer.

M. Rejection of Proposals

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the LHC to award a contract. The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and to cancel this announcement.

N. Cost of Proposal Preparation

Each Proposal and all information required to be submitted pursuant to the RFP shall be prepared at the sole cost and expense of the Proposer. There shall be no claims whatsoever against the LHC, its officers, officials, or employees for reimbursement for the payment of costs of expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a Proposal or for participating in this procurement process.

O. Certification of OMB A-133 Compliance

Proposers must provide certification that they are not suspended or debarred from conducting business with government agencies. By signing and submitting any proposal for \$100,000 or more, the Proposer certifies that the represented company, as well as any subcontractors or principals, are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in OMB Circular A-133.

A list of suspended or debarred parties can be viewed via the internet at <http://www.epls.gov>.

P. Written or Oral Presentations/Discussions

Written and/or oral discussions may be conducted by the Corporation with Proposers submitting proposals determined to be reasonable choices for selection and contract award; however, the Corporation reserves the right to enter into a contract without further discussion of proposals submitted, based on initial offers. Any commitments or representations made during such discussions, if conducted, may be formally recorded in the final contract. Written and/or oral discussions/presentations for clarification may be conducted in order to enhance the Corporation's understanding of any or all of the proposals submitted. A contract may, however, be awarded without such discussions.

Q. Code of Ethics

Proposers are responsible for determining that there will be no conflict or violation of the Louisiana Ethics Code (La. R.S. 42:1101, *et seq.*) if their company is awarded the contract. Ethics issues are interpreted by the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

R. Disqualification

The LHC reserves the right to verify all information provided by a Proposer via direct contact with the Proposer's clients and prior project personnel and Proposers must agree to provide necessary authorizations for the LHC to verify any of the Proposer's previous work. As described elsewhere in this RFP, each Proposer will be required to submit a detailed resume for all key personnel. Misstatements of experience and scope of prior projects shall be grounds for disqualification of the Proposer from further consideration.

S. Rights Reserved by LHC

LHC reserves the right to waive as informality any irregularities in submittals and/or to reject any or all proposals. LHC will not disclose the status of negotiations until the LHC's Board of Directors has approved award of a contract for services.

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III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Introduction

The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) hereby issues this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from qualified entities to provide Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) accredited training for the Home Energy Professional (HEP) Quality Control Inspector (QCI) Certification.

B. Overview

The new certification is part of the DOE's guidelines for Home Energy Professionals. The Guidelines for the Home Energy Professionals project helps establish a national residential energy upgrade industry and a skilled and credentialed workforce. The Home Energy Professionals project creates standard work specifications, advanced professional certifications for workers, and accredited training programs. DOE has a standardized training and testing curriculum for the QCI certification that is currently provided by accredited training and testing providers. The testing includes a written exam and a field exam.

As part of the Guidelines for the Home Energy Professionals project, DOE collaborated with National Renewable Energy Laboratory trainers and technicians from across the home performance industry to develop national Job Task Analyses for weatherization and high-quality, nationally-recognized professional certifications. The new certifications require experienced home energy professionals to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, practical skills, and technical proficiency in the four most common job classifications in the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and home energy upgrade industry: energy auditor, retrofit installer technician, crew leader, and quality control inspector.

C. Tasks and Services

There is no guarantee of a minimum level of services which may be requested by the LHC under this Contract.

The Contractor must have an Interstate Renewable Energy Council accredited training program aligned with the National Energy Renewable Laboratory's Job Task Analyses for Quality Control Inspectors. The training must be based on and meet the standards of the quality training required by the DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program's Core Competencies.

The Contractor must be a BPI certified Home Energy Professional (HEP) QCI Proctor. The Contractor must have administered the QCI online written exams and the field test with at least an overall average 80% passing rate for individuals tested.

The Contractors must ensure the proposal contains sufficient information for the Corporation to make a determination of the Proposer's capacity to perform the contracted services.

The Contractor shall provide on-site Quality Control Inspector Training (hereinafter referred to as "training") in Baton Rouge at the Louisiana Housing Corporation's training facility in accordance with the provisions and requirements stated herein and to the sole satisfaction of the Corporation.

The Contractor's training sessions shall be no more than five (5) consecutive days. The Contractor shall understand and agree that the actual scheduling of each training session shall be mutually agreed upon between the Corporation and the Contractor.

The Contractor must complete all the training sessions by **Sunday, March 31, 2015**. The on-site training sessions shall include both classroom instructions and field training in preparation for the BPI HEP OCI Certification exams for approximately twenty (20) individuals from the Louisiana WAP network. The training sessions shall follow the IREC approved curriculum.

The Contractor shall provide instructors who have experience with Quality Control Inspector Training, Building Science, Mechanical System Diagnostics, and DOE WAP Policies and Procedures.

Unless otherwise specified herein, the Contractor shall furnish all instructional materials, labor, and supplies necessary to perform the services required herein.

If requested by the Contractor, the Corporation may provide the Contractor with access to previous training participation of the individuals participating in the training that was provided by other entities along with any certification(s) of the individuals participating in the training.

The Corporation will provide meeting rooms for the classroom instructions of the training sessions. The field training sessions shall be designed to provide hands-on diagnostic testing and final inspection evaluation of a weatherized home. The Corporation will provide the equipment and weatherization training props necessary to conduct the field training and tests.

The Corporation shall have the right to modify or cancel any of the training sessions without incurring any liability, financial or otherwise, by providing the Contractor with an electronic notice at least 15 calendar days prior to the date of the first day of the training session.

The Contractor shall consult with and obtain the Corporation's approval prior to finalizing the curriculum and content for the training sessions.

If the Contractor utilizes training materials (e.g. manuals, resource books, handouts, reference materials, etc.) in conducting the training sessions, the Contractor shall provide a complete set of such training materials for each participant.

The Contractor must submit a copy of all training materials to the Corporation within five working days prior to the first training session, so that the training materials may be reviewed for errors, inappropriate material, and adherence to the State's objectives. The Contractor shall change/alter any training materials, if deemed necessary.

The Contractor's training materials must be neatly typed, clearly printed, and packaged/presented in a professional manner.

The participants shall be allowed to keep all training material.

The Contractor shall include in the proposals the specific needs regarding technological resources, equipment, technical support, materials, and supplies required for the training.

The Contractor's trainer(s) shall be mutually agreed upon prior to the trainer conducting the training session.

The Contractor shall ensure that each participant signs an attendance sheet each day of the training session to document participants' attendance. The Contractor shall submit the original attendance sheet to the Corporation after the completion of each training session.

The Contractor shall be responsible for all of the Contractor's travel arrangements, lodging, meals, and any other related activities as well as the costs associated.

The Contractor must identify a person within the Contractor's organization to serve as the Contractor's representative with the Corporation and who must be available for contact and communication with coordinating the training. By no later than ten (10) calendar days after the effective date of the contract, the Contractor must provide the contact information for the designated representative, which includes the name, address and phone number.

The requirements listed above are not exhaustive.

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IV. EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS

A. Objective

The LHC will consider proposals that, in its sole judgment, have demonstrated the capability and willingness to provide high quality services to the citizens of the State of Louisiana in the manner described in this RFP.

B. Preliminary Review

Each proposal will be preliminarily reviewed for compliance with the qualifications and requirements set forth in this RFP. Failure to meet these qualifications and requirements will cause the proposal to be eliminated from further consideration.

C. Evaluation/Qualification Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Review Committee based on the criteria detailed in this section. In preparing to submit a response, it is important for Proposers to clearly demonstrate their expertise in the areas described in this RFP.

The Review Committee will generally use the following criteria to evaluate all acceptable proposals and to develop recommendations to be presented to the LHC Board of Directors.

1. The Contractor must be a BPI certified Home Energy Professional (HEP) QCI Proctor;
2. An overview of your firm's experience in providing BPI QCI training to the Weatherization Assistance Program network (include supporting evidence of the number of individuals trained, percentage of re-test, and the number of individuals who passed the tests to receive certifications);
3. Biographical sketches of the principal(s) and staff who would be assigned to this activity;
4. The proposed fee schedule, payment provisions requested and estimated expenses;
5. A list of client references;
6. Proof of liability insurance and amount;
7. A statement attesting that all information provided in your proposal to the

LHC is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge; and

8. Any guarantees offered by your firm.

Proposers are encouraged to identify and clearly label in their proposal how each qualification is being fully addressed. Evaluation of responses to this RFP will be based only on the information provided in the proposal, and if applicable, interviews and reference responses. LHC reserves the right to request additional information or documentation from the firm regarding its proposal, personnel, financial viability, or other items in order to complete the selection process. If a Proposer chooses to provide additional materials in their proposal beyond those requested, those materials should be identified as such and included in a separate section of the proposal.

The following Criteria with an aggregate total of **one hundred twenty (120)** points will be utilized to evaluate the qualifications of each Proposer.

1. PROPOSER QUALIFICATIONS AND STAFFING (50 POINTS)

2. WORK MANAGEMENT PLAN (50 POINTS)

3. COST PROPOSAL (20 POINTS)

D. Evaluation Process

The Review Committee will score each written proposal. No preliminary conclusions or results will be given out to proposers until the Review Committee has completed the entire evaluation process and the formal announcement of the selected proposer has been made.

E. Oral Presentations

If the Review Committee extends invitations for oral presentations, the Proposers selected for final evaluation will be expected to accept the invitation and make oral presentations to the Committee. Proposers may be asked to provide clarification on corporate background and experience, proposed staff's experience, staffing, pending investigations and lawsuits. Proposers are reminded that any oral commitments or representations made during these presentations that extend beyond the written representations in the proposal document may be formally recorded in the contract.

F. Final Scoring

If oral presentations are conducted, those presentations will be graded separate from the previously submitted written proposals on the basis of information obtained from the Proposer's oral presentations and references with a maximum point value of 20 points being awarded. The final score will be the sum of the score received from both the written submission packet and the oral presentation, if any.

G. Final Selection

Upon approval, a formal announcement of the selected firm will be made, and all Proposers will be notified. Contract negotiations should begin by the date listed in Section I(D). The successful firm will be expected to sign the contract, which will contain substantially similar terms and requirements as those set forth in Section VI. Firms should thoroughly review Section VI prior to submission of proposal response.

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V. PROPOSAL CONTENT AND FORMAT

A. Executive Summary

This section should include a summary of the Proposer's qualifications and ability to meet the State's overall requirements. It must include specific authorization to contact all references, employers, or customers for whom the company or proposed staff referenced in the proposal have performed work.

It should include a positive statement of agreement to comply with the terms and conditions of the draft contract. If the Proposer cannot comply with any of the contract terms, an explanation of each exception must be supplied.

B. Firm Experience, Qualification, and Proposed Staff

- **Place of Incorporation or Formation and Years of Experience**

The Proposer must provide the firm's date and state of incorporation or formation, years in business, and years of firm's experience (not the individual employees' or managers' experience) as it relates to weatherization training programs and BPI authorization.

- **Qualifications and References**

The Proposer must describe the firm's qualifications and experiences that demonstrate its capability to serve as proctors to administer written and field testing. Provide a list of three (3) references, identifying a lead contact with a telephone number, who may be contacted regarding the firm's abilities, integrity, and professional reputation in acting as a consultant to a major state agency. Governmental contracts from 2008 through present, as well as any other information that would demonstrate the firm's understanding and experience in providing the above named services.

- **Organization of Firm/Department and Professional Staff**

Detailed information must be provided about the experience and qualifications of the staff who will be assigned to act for the firm in providing services to the LHC as well as the functions to be performed by each. Full resumes, curriculum vitae, or detailed bio of each person, including names, positions, education, and experience should be included. Identify and describe fully all family or business relationships any employee or manager of the firm may have or has had with employees or elected officials of the State or local governmental entities in Louisiana.

- **Criminal Proceedings/Investigations**

The Proposer must give a brief description of any criminal proceedings or criminal investigations involving the firm or any professionals in the firm who may be involved in providing the services.

C. Work Management Plan

This section must summarize the firm's plan and approach to providing the services, including a statement of how the training sessions would be organized, managed, and implemented, and a timetable or activity schedule, if appropriate.

The Proposer must indicate how the quality and availability of personnel assigned to this work would be maintained over the term of the contract.

D. Cost Proposal

The cost proposal must provide the basic fee structure and indicate the hourly rates of the various staff members for the services described in Section III. The cost proposal should state assumptions on which the firm's fee would be predicated and any factors that would change the actual fee. The Proposer should state what it considers to be the most appropriate method for determining a reasonable fee for this representation, and state the rationale for this determination.

Travel expenses should not exceed the U.S. General Services Administration's FY2015 travel rates.

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VI. CONTRACT TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

A. Contract Award, Negotiations, and Execution

The contract will be awarded to the Proposer whose proposal accumulates the highest score as outlined in Section IV. The formal announcement of the selected consultant will occur on or about the date indicated in the Important Dates and Deadlines, Section I(C). Negotiations may begin with the announcement of the successful Proposer.

The Corporation reserves the right to request additional information and/or to negotiate certain clarifications with the prospective consultant selected through this RFP. The Corporation also reserves the right to contract for all or a partial list of services offered in the proposal as well as to negotiate fees and terms of the contract.

The successful Proposer will be expected to enter into a contract with the LHC, which will contain substantially similar terms and requirements as those set forth in this Section. The RFP and proposal of the selected consultant will become part of any contract initiated by the LHC. **In no event is a consultant to submit its own standard contract's terms and conditions as a response to this RFP.**

If the contract negotiation period exceeds forty-five (45) days or if the selected Proposer fails to sign the final contract within five (5) business days of delivery, the LHC may elect to cancel the award and award the contract to the next highest ranked Proposer.

If, for any reason, the Proposer most responsive to the Corporation's needs, price and other evaluation factors set forth in the RFP considered, does not agree to a contract, that proposal shall be rejected, and the Corporation may negotiate with the next most responsive Proposer. Negotiation may include revision of non-mandatory terms, conditions, and requirements.

B. Term of Contract

The initial term of contract shall be from the date of the contract execution to Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Any extension will be at the discretion of the Corporation. All proposals should reflect services in anticipation of a maximum contract term.

C. Insurance Requirements

During the term of the contract, the Contractor shall at its own cost and expense, procure and maintain the types of insurance listed below. The Proposer's inability or unwillingness to meet these requirements as a condition of award, may, at the sole discretion of the Corporation, be rejected and returned as nonresponsive without review.

The selected Proposer shall procure and maintain as applicable, for the duration of the contract, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of work hereunder by Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees and/or subcontractors. General liability insurance shall name the Corporation/State of Louisiana as an additional insured, and evidence of this shall be provided to the Corporation upon initiation of a contract. Contractor shall include all subcontractors, if any, as insured parties under its policies or shall furnish separate certificates of insurance for each subcontractor. Contractor must furnish proof to the Corporation of the continuing effectiveness of such insurance for the term of any ensuing contract with the Corporation. Contractor shall maintain limits of no less than:

1. **Commercial General Liability:** One million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage;
2. **Automobile Liability:** One million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit per accident, for bodily injury and property damage;
3. **Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability:** Workers' Compensation limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of Louisiana and Employers' Liability coverage. Liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance must be in amounts and of a scope reasonably satisfactory to the Corporation;
4. **Errors and Omissions Insurance:** Contractor shall procure and maintain insurance against the misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance (errors and omissions) of the Contractor relating to the management of the Property with limits not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and a discovery period of not less than eighteen (18) months with a deductible of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per claim;
5. **Blanket Crime Insurance:** Which includes Employee Dishonesty coverage, naming the Agency as "Loss Payee"; and
6. **Fidelity Bond:** Within limits not less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) per occurrence (for those employees handling rents, receipts, petty cash, invoices, bills and other monetary transactions and documentation).

D. Billing and Payment

The Contractor will submit monthly itemized billing statements. Such itemized statements must contain, at a minimum, the following information: identification of the individual(s) providing the service, brief description of the service provided and the date on which it was done.

Under normal circumstances, the LHC should remit payment to the Contractor within thirty (30) days of approval of invoices. The LHC makes every effort to pay all valid or

undisputed invoices in a timely manner. There may be times when invoices are disputed or clarification of charges is needed before payment can be made.

E. Non-Negotiable Contract Terms

Non-negotiable contract terms shall include but not be limited to taxes, assignment of contract, audit of records, EEOC and ADA compliance, record retention, content of contract/order of precedence, contract changes, governing law, claims or controversies, and termination based on contingency of appropriation of funds.

F. Use of Subcontractors

The selected Proposer shall serve as the single prime Contractor for all deliverables and work performed pursuant to the terms of the entire contract. **No proposals involving subcontractors, joint proposals, or joint ventures will be accepted.**

G. Prohibited Activity

Contractors are prohibited from using funds provided herein or personnel employed in the administration of this program for political activities, inherently religious activities, lobbying, political patronage, and/or nepotism. The Contractor will comply with the prohibitions from using funds provided herein or personnel employed in the administration of the program for political activities, inherently religious activities, lobbying, political patronage, and/or nepotism.

H. Warranties and Representations

The Contractor warrants and represents that the following are true and shall remain true throughout the term of the Contract:

1. All information contained in its response to the RFP remains current and correct, including all information regarding its credit standing, financial status, resources, insurance, and personnel;
2. It is in good standing as a corporation in the state of its incorporation, and it is qualified to do business in Louisiana, and will take all such action that may be necessary from time to time to remain in good standing and so qualified;
3. It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State or any department or unit thereof, or any local governmental entity within the State, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall take such action as from time to time may be necessary to insure the continuous and current status of all monetary obligations it may owe the State or any local governmental entity within the State;
4. It is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws applicable to its activities generally, and, in particular, to its obligations under this Contract; and

5. It now possesses, or shall immediately obtain and maintain, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, that are necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract, or which are required by the Corporation from time to time.

I. Assignment

The Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Contract and shall not transfer any interest in same (whether by assignment or novation), without prior written consent of the Corporation, provided however, that claims for money due or to become due to the Contractor from the Corporation may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the Corporation.

J. Indemnification

The Contractor shall indemnify the LHC Board of Directors, LHC staff and the State of Louisiana from any and all loss, liability, or expenses (including the cost of defense and attorneys' fees) in connection with any claims or actions brought against any of them that arose directly or indirectly from actions, omissions, or obligations of the Contractor in connection with this Contract. The Contractor shall immediately notify the Corporation of any such claim made or action filed or threatened against the Contractor, and shall cooperate, assist, and consult with the Corporation, its staff, and the State, or their counsel, in the defense and investigation of any such claim or action. Neither the Corporation nor the State has any obligation under the terms of this Contract or any other agreement or relationship with the Corporation to provide legal counsel or defense to the Corporation in such a claim or action, nor is there any obligation to pay any judgment on, or settlement of, any such claim or action.

K. Payment of Taxes

The Contractor understands and agrees that it is responsible for paying any taxes (including Louisiana or federal income or payroll taxes), or license fees or official fees that may be due as a result of either its receipt of fees or other payments hereunder or its performance in accordance with the terms hereof under its own Federal Tax Identification Number.

L. Audit

The Contractor grants to the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Inspector General's Office, the Federal Government, and any other duly authorized agency of the State, where appropriate, the right to inspect and review all books and records pertaining to services rendered under this Contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of the last payment made under this Contract. The Contractor shall comply with federal and/or state laws authorizing an audit of the Contractor's operation as a whole, or of specific program activities. Records shall be made available during normal working hours for this purpose.

M. Non-Discrimination in Employment

The Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Act of 1975, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Contractor further agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and shall render services under this Contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation or disabilities. Any act of discrimination committed by the Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable, shall be grounds for contract termination.

N. Contingent Fee Prohibition

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent working for it directly, to solicit or secure this Contract, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent, any fee or other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Corporation shall have the right to annul this Contract without liability for any work performed hereunder and with the right to recover any fees or expenses paid hereunder, or, in its discretion, to deduct from the consideration otherwise payable to the Contractor the full amount of such fee or other consideration paid for such solicitation or lobbying effort.

O. Governing Law

The laws of the State of Louisiana shall govern the terms of the contract and disputes arising therefore shall be resolved in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana. Venue of any action brought with regard to this contract shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.